

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01152 120716Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 /057 W
-----016179 120720Z /21

R 120643Z JUL 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4763
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1152

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SY, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI AND SYRIAN REGIMES UNRECONCILED

REF: DAMASCUS 4160

1. ASSUME THAT EXPLOSIONS IN DAMASCUS ON JULY 4 AND 10
AND RENEWAL OF PROPAGANDA WAR HAVE ENDED RUMORS OF
SYRO-IRAQI RECONCILIATION. FEW INFORMED OBSERVERS
IN BAGHDAD PLACED CREDENCE IN REPORTS OF SECRET TALKS
BETWEEN TWO BAATHI REGIMES. BAGHDAD MEDIA HAD NEVER
HALTED ITS HARSH TREATMENT OF SYRIAN GOVERNMENT
AND OF PRESIDENT ASAD PERSONALLY. USUAL ALLEGATION HAS
BEEN THAT ASAD IS AGENT OF U.S. AND DUPE OF ISRAEL.
EVEN SYRIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO IS WONT TO DESCRIBE FEUD
AS "SMALL PROBLEMS AMONG ARAB BROTHERS," ADMITS THAT
CROSS BORDER COMMERCE HAS NEVER RESUMED.

2. IRAQI AUTHORITIES DENY RESPONSIBILITY FOR
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EXPLOSIONS, BUT NO ONE EXPRESSES SYMPATHY. MEDIA
CREDIT ACTS TO PATRIOTIC SYRIANS RESISTING INTERNAL
REPRESSION AND PROTESTING ASAD'S SUPPOSED CAPITULATION-
IST POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL. COMMUNIQUE OF "PROVISIONAL
SYRIAN REGIONAL COMMAND," WHICH WE ASSUMED IS MERELY
A CREATION OF SYRIAN EMIGRES WHO DOMINATE BAATH
PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND, RECEIVE FAVORABLE PLAY IN

BAGHDAD MEDIA. SO-CALLED "ORGANIZATION OF SYRIAN REVOLUTIONARIES" IS ALSO RECEIVING ATTENTION FOR ITS ANNOUNCEMENTS, DATED IN DAMASCUS. MOST RECENT STATEMENT, PUBLISHED BY BAGHDAD MEDIA ON JULY 11, EULOGIZES EIGHT MEMBERS EXECUTED BY DAMASCUS REGIME FOLLOWING OPERATIONS THEY SUPPOSEDLY CONDUCTED AGAINST SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. STATEMENT DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN ASSASSINATION OF THE LATE RECTOR OF DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY, BLAMING THAT ACT ON REFAT ASAD.

3. PRESIDENT BAKR, IN A MESSAGE PUBLISHED JULY 10 IN MAGAZINE OF IRAQI ARMED FORCES, MADE HARSH REFERENCES TO "RENEGADE REGIME" IN DAMASCUS. SINCE BAKR SPEAKS WITH AUTHORITY OF IRAQI STATE, THIS DECLARATION GIVES OPEN AND OFFICIAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO SYRIAN EMIGRES WHO ARE PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF THE MEDIA ATTACKS.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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